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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS EDUCATION OF FUTURE WATER ENGINEERS FOR TAJIKISTAN

DUSHANBE — The Center for Safe Drinking Water Solutions, which is operated jointly by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Tajikistan Technical University, granted certificates to eight students for completing a water engineering internship program. The ceremony took place on the eve of Global Water Day – March 22 - highlighted the importance of safe drinking water technologies and was a part of the Navruz festivities at the Construction and Architecture Faculty of the University.

The Center for Safe Drinking Water Solutions was created on March 27, 2010 through the cooperation of the Tajikistan Technical University and USAID. Since its opening, the center has provided hands-on training on modern water engineering practices to 16 advanced students of the university's Water Engineering Department.

USAID Tajikistan Deputy Country Director Kevin Dean and the Dean of the Construction and Architecture Faculty Orif Amirov, alongside guests from academia, former interns, and 2,000 students from the Tajikistan Technical University participated in the award ceremony.

The core objective of the Center for Safe Drinking Water Solutions is to train Tajikistan's future water engineers by providing students with practical courses on water system design using the latest computer software and other technology. The eight interns were involved in fieldwork to find safe drinking water solutions for USAID's rural partner communities.

Over the past three years, USAID has invested more than \$1.7 million in improving 57 drinking water systems that provide access to clean drinking water to 150,000 people in Tajikistan.

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